

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY:MJB

APPROVED BY EUR/SE - WILLIAM EAGLETON

EUR/P - E. SAVAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 221713

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MAR, PFOR, TU, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY AID TO TURKEY AND THE CYPRUS SITUATION

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE UNCORRECTED TRANSCRIPT
OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANDERSON'S OCTOBER 8 NEWS BRIEFING.

"Q - BOB, THERE IS AN ITEM ON FBIS THIS MORNING QUOTING
MAVROS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SECRETARY WILL BE GOING TO
ANKARA. IS THAT GOING TO BE ON THE TAIL END OF THE UP-
COMING TRIP, OR IS THAT GOING TO BE AT THE END OF THE
EXTENDED TRIP AT THE END OF THIS MONTH?

A - WELL, ON THAT LET ME SAY THIS. THERE WAS A PLAN FOR
THE SECRETARY TO PAY A VISIT TO ANKARA. AND THIS PLAN IS
NOW POSTPONED FOR TWO REASONS: NUMBER 1, TURKEY IS IN THE
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PROCESS OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT. AND THE SECOND REASON IS
THAT THE AMBIGUITY OF THE SITUATION HERE IS SUCH THAT IT
MAKES IT RATHER DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE IN WHAT FRAMEWORK
ANY USEFUL TALKS COULD BE CARRIED ON.

Q - WHAT SITUATION HERE?

A - WITH THE TURKS.

THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO TURKISH AID. AND ON THAT,
IF ANY OF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY GOTTEN IT, I REFER YOU TO A

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT TODAY AT THE WHITE
HOUSE.

Q - WHEN WAS HE SUPPOSED TO GO TO TURKEY?

A - THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC TIMING SET ON THAT. BUT IT IS
POSTPONED.

Q - WAS THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR HIM TO GO DURING THE MIDDLE
EAST TRIP OR DURING THE FOLLOWING TRIP?

A - THERE WAS NOTHING TIED DOWN ON IT, BECAUSE THE QUESTION
OF THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY HAS NOW BEEN
GOING ON FOR -- WHAT? -- A WEEK OR TEN DAYS.

Q - WHEN WAS THE PLAN POSTPONED, OR WHEN WAS THE TRIP
POSTPONED? WHEN WAS THAT DECISION MADE?

A - WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I SAID IT WAS NEVER TIED DOWN
SPECIFICALLY, BUT BECAUSE OF THE TWO DEVELOPMENTS THAT
I JUST MENTIONED IT WAS DEEMED WISE AND MORE USEFUL TO
POSTPONE IT FOR SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE.

Q - I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT WHEN WAS THAT DECISION MADE?
IT HAD TO BE CONVEYED TO THE ANKARA GOVERNMENT AT ONE
POINT OR ANOTHER. THIS ISN'T THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF
IT, MAKING THEM AWARE OF IT THROUGH US?

A - I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT DAY IT WAS.
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Q - RECENTLY?

A - YES, RECENTLY.

Q - A COUPLE OF DAYS? TWO OR THREE DAYS?

A - I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT TIME IT WAS DONE.

Q - IT WAS TIED DOWN RECENTLY, OR UPSET RECENTLY?

A - NO, THE QUESTION OF NOT GOING WAS DETERMINED RECENTLY,
BUT I HAVE NOT GOT A SPECIFIC DAY OR DATE ON WHEN IT WAS
DECIDED.

Q - A WEEK AGO, FROM THIS PODIUM, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT TOLD US THERE IS NO PLAN FOR HIM TO GO TO TURKEY -- IN FACT, THERE IS NO CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO HIM TO GO TO TURKEY.

A - YES.

Q - THERE IS ONLY ONE CONCLUSION: THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING -- EVEN PLANNING -- A TRIP TO TURKEY, WHEN WE WERE BEING TOLD OTHERWISE. CAN YOU TELL US WHY WE WERE MISLED?

A - I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT YOU WERE MISLED AT ALL HERE, FRANKLY. WHAT I SAID, TO THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE IN NEW YORK, AND WHAT I SAID HERE -- BECAUSE EVERYONE WAS ASKING ME -- "IS HE GOING TO GO? IS THE SECRETARY GOING TO GO TO ANKARA OR ATHENS OR CYPRUS ON THIS TRIP?" -- ET CETERA -- AND I SAID, "THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR THAT." AND I TOLD YOU AGAIN TODAY THAT NO DEFINITE DATE WAS EVER SET. THE IDEA WAS BEING DISCUSSED DURING ALL THESE CONVERSATIONS THAT YOU ALL HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT IN NEW YORK WITH THE GREEKS AND THE TURKS UP THERE, BUT NOTHING WAS EVER SET. SO I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT I MISLED YOU IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER.

Q - THERE'S ANOTHER ASPECT OF THIS THAT CONFUSES ME A LITTLE, BOB. YOU CITE AS THE TWO REASONS FOR THESE TENTATIVE PLANS HAVING BEEN CANCELLED; (A) THE AMBIGUITY UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE SITUATION; AND (B) THE FACT THAT NEW ELECTIONS ARE BEING HELD IN TURKEY.

NOW, BOTH THOSE FACTORS HAVE BEEN PRESENT FOR AT LEAST THE PAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS, SO I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY ANYTHING HAS BEEN CHANGED.

A - WELL, ON THAT -- AND I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE DIFFERENT RESOLUTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PRESENTED UP ON THE HILL; YOU HAVE THE RECORD OF THAT -- BUT YOU CAN REFER TO THE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT. BUT AT ONE POINT THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT A RESOLUTION THAT WAS PROPOSED BY, I BELIEVE, THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE -- THAT IT WAS FELT THAT WE COULD WORK WITH THAT RESOLUTION.

NOW, SINCE THAT RESOLUTION HAS BEEN PROPOSED, CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS HAVE NOW TAKEN PLACE UP ON THE HILL, WHICH YOU KNOW ABOUT AS WELL AS I DO.

Q - WELL, THE HILL -- THE SENATE HASN'T ACTED YET. IF THE BAN IS REMOVED, WILL THE SECRETARY THEN RECONSIDER GOING TO TURKEY? IS THAT THE MESSAGE WE'RE SUPPOSED

TO DELIVER?

A - I DO NOT KNOW. LET US WAIT UNTIL THE SENATE VOTE IS OVER, AND THEN THE SECRETARY WILL CONSIDER THAT.

Q - WELL, ON THAT SAME POINT --

Q - I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SECOND POINT, BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY SAID HE WOULD VETO PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENTS HE DOESN'T LIKE. SO, THEREFORE, EITHER ONE OF TWO THINGS WOULD HAPPEN: EITHER TURKEY WOULD CONTINUE TO GET MILITARY AID BECAUSE OF WHAT THE SENATE VOTES, OR IT WILL CONTINUE TO GET AID BECAUSE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO -- ASSUMING IT'S NOT OVERRIDDEN.

A - WELL, ON THIS, BERNIE, I DON'T WANT TO TAKE IT ANY FURTHER THAN WE ARE RIGHT NOW. THE SENATE HAS NOT ACTED. THE PRESIDENT ISSUED A STATEMENT THIS MORNING, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND I THINK YOU SHOULD READ WHAT HE SAID ON IT.

Q - BOB, WHY DID YOU MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY? WHY DID YOU DISCLOSE TO US THAT THERE -- QUOTE -- WAS A "PLAN" FOR THE SECRETARY TO VISIT ANKARA? I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU -- YOU KNOW, THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT WE ALL HAD IN NEW YORK FROM YOU AND THE SECRETARY WAS THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF HIS MAKING A VISIT TO ANKARA, ATHENS OR CYPRUS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AT ALL. WHY DO YOU TELL US THERE WAS A PLAN NOW? IS THIS ANOTHER STRONG ARM OF THE SENATE TO FRIGHTEN THEM INTO GOING ALONG?

A - KEN, I THINK I'VE SAID ENOUGH ON THIS SUBJECT. ANYTHING I SAY WILL JUST BE REPEATING WHAT I'VE ALREADY SAID. I JUST HAVE NOTHING TO ADD.

Q - BOB, AT THE TIME THERE WAS A PLAN FOR THE SECRETARY TO VISIT ANKARA, WAS THERE ALSO A PLAN FOR HIM TO VISIT ATHENS AND/OR CYPRUS; AND ARE THOSE ALSO POSTPONED?

A - ANY VISIT TO ATHENS WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED UNTIL AFTER A VISIT TO ANKARA, AND THERE WAS NOTHING DEFINITE PLANNED ON THAT -- NOR TO CYPRUS, AS FAR AS I KNOW.

Q - BOB, I CONCLUDE FROM WHAT YOU SAY THAT ONE OF THE REASONS THAT THE SECRETARY IS NOT GOING TO ANKARA IS BECAUSE WHATEVER IDEAS HE MIGHT HAVE HAD TO VISIT ATHENS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE ATHENS GOVERNMENT. IS THIS RIGHT?

A - NO. I DON'T THINK IT IS RIGHT, NO. YOU HAD SOMETHING ELSE?

Q - WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT ATTEMPTING TO SAY HERE--
THAT AS LONG AS THERE IS ANY RESTRICTION OF LANGUAGE IN
CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE
CAN NOT CONDUCT ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE?
IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN BY THE "AMBIGUOUS SITUATION."

A - WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: THE SITUATION IS
AMBIGUOUS FOR THE REASONS THAT I STATED. AND I THINK
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THAT ONE HAS TO REASSESS THE SITUATION TO SEE WHAT USE-
FUL ROLE WE COULD POSSIBLY PLAY IN TRYING TO HELP BRING
ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, INSOFAR
AS THE PARTIES TO THE PROBLEM WISH US TO BE HELPFUL.

Q - WELL, BOB, LET ME TRY TO DOT A COUPLE OF "I"'S HERE.
IN THE EVENT THAT THE AMBIGUITY ON THE HILL WERE RESOLVED,
WOULD THE FACT THAT THE TURKS ARE HOLDING ELECTIONS THERE
-- WOULD THAT RESTRAIN THE SECRETARY FROM GOING -- OR IS
IT REALLY THE AMBIGUITY THAT WE'RE ON?

A - NO. I GAVE YOU TWO REASONS. BOTH OF THOSE ARE THE
REASONS FOR POSTPONING ANY PLAN TO GO. AND AS TO WHEN
THE SECRETARY MIGHT GO WILL DEPEND UPON CHANGES IN THE
TWO POINTS THAT I MADE EARLIER.

Q - BUT THAT'S WHAT CONFUSES ME, BECAUSE THE FACT THAT
ELECTIONS WERE GOING TO BE HELD HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR A
LONG TIME.

Q - NO -- NO ELECTIONS.

A - THERE ARE NO ELECTIONS AT ALL. YOU'RE IN THE WRONG
COUNTRY.

Q - YES.

A - THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS OVER IN GREECE, BUT THIS IS
A QUESTION OF THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT -- AS I SAID
-- AND ONE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THAT TO OCCUR.

Q - I WANTED TO ASK YOU IF THE SENATE -- I GUESS THE
SENATE HASN'T VOTED. BUT SHOULD THIS TURKISH AID THING
BE RESOLVED BEFORE WE TAKE OFF TONIGHT, IS THERE ANY
CHANCE THE SECRETARY WILL CONSIDER A TRIP TO ATHENS,
GREECE -- OR CYPRUS -- ON THIS TRIP?

A - I DO NOT SEE IT. NO; THERE IS NO -- LET ME PUT IT
THIS WAY AGAIN, AND I DON'T WANT TO BE ACCUSED OF MIS-
LEADING YOU: RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR ANY
VISIT TO ANKARA. AND, AS I HAVE JUST SAID, ANY VISIT TO
ATHENS WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER VISITING ANKARA.

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Q - YESTERDAY, YOU --

A - AND, IN ADDITION, THERE IS A QUESTION -- AS TED

MENTIONED EARLIER -- OF ELECTIONS COMING UP IN GREECE.
SO THERE IS THAT QUESTION ALSO THAT ONE WOULD HAVE TO
BEAR IN MIND IF ONE WANTS TO CONSIDER HAVING AN
APPROPRIATE TIME TO VISIT ATHENS. BUT AS OF NOW THERE
IS NO PLAN AT ALL TO VISIT THESE CAPITALS THAT YOU JUST
MENTIONED.

Q - BUT, OF COURSE, WE WERE TOLD THE SAME SORT OF THING
LAST WEEK; SO WE DO REMAIN SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL. KISSINGER

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